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# Statement by the Executive Committee of the Sendai Christian Orphanage.

Allen K. Faust, Chairman.

Because of the unprecedented high cost of living and the numberless other calls for aid, the Sendai Christian Orphanage has had an anxious year. Even with the most painful economy our expenses are exceeding our income. We have been obliged to refuse one after another applications for admission, and the number of our children is the smallest in the history of the Home. But we have not lost faith in the Christlikeness of the work, nor do we for a moment believe that the many friends of the institution have lost interest in this great cause. We only wish our friends could see with their own eyes the beautiful work that the Home is doing for the unfortunate children under its care, and that they could fully realize the distinctly Christian influence which the Orphanage is bringing to bear on the city of Sendai and the surrounding country.

We appeal therefore most earnestly to our Christian brothers and sisters in Japan and across the sea to continue their support at this critical time, and thus open the awy for many destitute orphans to come to Him who bids the

little ones to come unto Him. The pitiful voices of these dwarfed little lives are calling for the "cup of cold water" in Christ's name,—and we will not believe that they are calling in vain.

We are very glad to say that both the prefectural government and the city government have given us grants of money, and in many other ways have shewn practical appreciation of what the Home is doing for this part of Japan.

The Sendai Christian Orphanage offers a most fruitful opportunity for doing missionary work of the first order. "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord." *The security is gilt-edge.* We pray earnestly that we may hear from you before the end of the year.

### Extracts from the Superintendent's Report

What shall we report? Enough things have happened to tax the time and strength of the workers to their utmost capacity, and often have we been at "Wit's end corner" not knowing what to do, or how to do it, but always the great Burden-bearer was "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

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Sunday School on Sunday morning at eight o'clock, after which the older children go to Church. Daily morning and evening worship, and on Friday evenings a prayer-meeting in all the cottages, in which all the children take part, even the wee ones of Kindergarten age. It is very sweet to hear them join in the singing of hymns, and offer their simple childlike petitions.

Five new children have been admitted since last April, three boys and two girls, and nine have gone out. Three are safely sheltered within the Father's home, among those "which came out of much tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

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Two days later the first cases of influenza appeared, rapidly followed by others, until sixty-two children had succumbed to the epidemic. The hospital beds were all filled, two, three in a bed, some on mats on the floor, and still others in the cottages. Adults too joined the company, and this made it very difficult for the remaining force to care for so many patients day and night. Many throughout the city were similarly affected, so that nurses were in great demand, and it was impossible at first to get the needed help. We

did our best under the circumstances and God wonderfully blessed our efforts, and spared our lambkins.

"Weakest lambs have largest share
Of the tender Shepherd's care."

To pass through such a siege with so large a number, without the loss of one, is really marvellous, and we rejoiced with exeeeding joy, and devout thanksgiving in our hearts, when at Christmastide all had recovered, and were able to be present at the exercises.

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The question is sometimes asked, "Do you teach any industry or trade in the Orphanage?" The subject has often been discussed by the Executive Committee, but always without a solution. It is not an easy matter to solve the problem for children of Primary school grade, and with not more time at their disposal. However last summer there came a request from a company in Sendai for the children to sort colors, and join leavings of woolen yarn, and wind it into balls, offering to pay six sen a pound for their services. While it is not a trade, yet it is something which keeps them employed, and whereby they can earn a little money outside school hours. From midsummer till Christmas they

earned nearly twenty Yen, and half of this amount we gave to the children at Christmas.

Special mention is due for the enthusiastic efforts made by Mrs. Schneder and her woman's club, assisted by missionaries in conducting a bazaar which resulted in raising five hundred and forty three Yen for the Orphanage, which was a large increase over the preceding year.

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The resignation of Mrs. Ito as office assistant, and her departure on March 17th. necessitated the postponement of my carefully planned three months vacation.

To all friends who have helped thus far in caring for our large family, when there were countless other demands upon their generosity we render heartfelt gratitude. We pray that they may continue to remember us, for we are workers together with God in this sacred cause.

Respectfully submitted,
Louisa Imhof,
Superintendent.

Sendai, Japan.